

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Paragraph beginning at Line 16 of Page 6 with the following amended paragraph. All amendments are shown with deleted text strikethrough or double bracketed and new text underlined.

Figure 2 is a cross section of an improved throw rod in accordance with the present invention. Throw rod 26 includes a first rod portion having a connector end 32 adapted to be connected to the basket 28, and a second rod portion having a connector end adapted 34 to be connected to the switch machine 30 as known in the art. Instead of being a solid rod, however, throw rod 26 includes a cylinder 36 connected to the second rod portion, and a piston 38 connected to the first rod portion as shown. If desired, the connections of the cylinder and piston can be switched without a change in operating.